IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 31 (cancelled)

32. (new) A body care product for application to skin and/or mucosa containing porous particles which are formed of metal and which contain metallic silver, said particles having a mean diameter of between from about 1 micron to about 100 microns.

33. (new) The body care product of claim 32, wherein the particles have a mean internal porosity in the range of from about 65% to about 95%.

34. (new) The body care product of claim 33, wherein the particles are present as agglomerates of metallic primary particles.

35. (new) The body care product of claim 34, wherein the primary particles have a mean diameter of between from about 10 nm to about 200 nm.

36. (new) The body care product of claim 35, wherein the mean distance between outermost primary particles at a surface of the agglomerates is in the range of from about 20 nm to about 200 nm.

37. (new) The body care product of claim 33, wherein the particles have a sponge-like structure.

38. (new) The body care product of claim 33, wherein the particles have mean external diameter of from about 2 microns to about 20 microns.

39. (new) The body care product of claim 33, wherein the particles have a specific surface of from about 2 m^2/g to about 10 m^2/g.

40. (new) The body care product of claim 33, wherein the total weight of the particles is at least 99% metallic silver.

41. (new) The body care product of claim 40, wherein the particles comprise less then about 5 ppm of potassium, sodium or chlorine impurities.

42. (new) The body care product of claim 40, wherein the total weight of the particles is up to about 0.5% metallic zinc and/or up to about 0.5% metallic copper.

43. (new) The body care product of claim 40, wherein the particles are formed from a silver-zinc alloy or a silver-zinc-copper alloy.

44. (new) The body care product of claim 33, wherein the body care product does not comprise any preservatives in addition to the particles.

45. (new) The body care product of claim 33, wherein the particles are present in a carrier material selected from the group consisting of a silicone oil, a mineral oil, glycerol or an ointment constituent.

46. (new) The body care product of claim 33, wherein the body care product is a preparation selected from the group consisting of an emulsion, a lotion, a gel, a cream,

an ointment, a healing ointment, a powder, a cosmetic, a skin protection cream or ointment, a disinfectant, a suspension, a soap, a synthetic surfactant, a bath additive, a peeling preparation, a face lotion, a tooth care product, a toothpaste, a mouthwash, a hair shampoo or a sun-screen agent.

47. (new) The body care product of claim 32, wherein the particles have a mean internal porosity in the range of from about 85% to about 95%.

48. (new) The body care product of claim 47, wherein the particles are present as agglomerates of metallic primary particles and the primary particles have a mean diameter of between from about 15 nm to about 80 nm.

49. (new) The body care product of claim 48, wherein the mean distance between outermost primary particles at a surface of the agglomerates is in the range of from about 100 nm to about 200 nm.

50. (new) The body care product of claim 49, wherein the particles have a specific surface of from about 3.5 m^2/g to about 4.5 m^2/g.

51. (new) A method for treating an inflammation and/or an infection, comprising applying to skin and or mucosa of a mammal or human having the inflammation and/or infection a medicament including porous particles which are formed of metal and which contain metallic silver, said particles having a mean diameter of between from about 1 micron to about 100 microns.

52. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein the particles have an internal porosity in the range of from about 65% to about 95%.

53. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the particles are present as agglomerates of metallic primary particles.

54. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the primary particles have a mean diameter of from about 10 nm to about 200 nm.

55. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein the mean distance between outermost primary particles at a surface of the agglomerates is in the range of from about 20 nm to about 200 nm.

56. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the particles have a sponge-like structure.

57. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the particles have a mean external diameter of from about 2 microns to about 20 microns.

58. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the particles have a specific surface of from about 2 m^2/g to about 10 m^2/g.

59. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the total weight of the particles is at least 99% metallic silver.

60. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the particles comprise less than about 5 ppm of potassium, sodium or chlorine in impurities.

61. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the total weight of the particles is up to about 0.5% metallic zinc and/or up to about 0.5% metallic copper.

62. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the particles are formed from a silver-zinc alloy or a silver-zinc-copper alloy.

63. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the medicament does not contain any preservatives in addition to the particles.

64. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the treatment is a topical treatment.

65. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the medicament is an ointment, a cream or a gel.

66. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein the particles are present in the medicament in a carrier material selected from the group consisting of a silicone oil, a mineral oil, glycerol or an ointment constituent.

67. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein the particles have a mean internal porosity in the range of from about 85% to about 95%.

68. (new) The method of claim 67, wherein the particles are present as agglomerates of metallic primary particles and the primary particles have a mean diameter of between from about 16 nm to about 80 nm.

69. (new) The method of claim 68, wherein the mean distance between outermost primary particles at a surface of the agglomerates is in the range of from about 100 nm to about 200 nm.

70. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the particles have a specific surface of from about 3.5 m^2/g to about 4.5 m^2/g.